

FLORIDA ENERGY COMMISSION

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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SECOND CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN TAMPA

TAMPA – The Florida Energy Commission’s Advisory Group on Climate Change will hold its second meeting on May 8 from 5:30 to 10 p.m. at the Tampa International Airport in the Tampa Aviation Authority’s Board room, 5503 W. Spruce St., Unit 3D2, Third floor.

Advisory group members will begin working on a climate action plan to be included in the FEC’s recommendations to the Legislature, due Dec. 31. Once submitted, these recommendations, including draft legislative language, will be poised to become Florida’s energy policy.

“In recent months, members of the public have expressed a strong sense of urgency to address climate change,” said Dr. Todd Sack, chairman of the Climate Change Advisory Group. “The public’s message is clear: It’s time to stop planning and start acting.”

During its workshop, the Climate Change Advisory Group will discuss recent state, national and international climate change findings. In early April, FEC Chairman Tommy Boroughs issued a response to the International Panel on Climate Change’s April 6 report. Among other grim predictions, the report forecasts increased intense tropical storm activity and increased losses to coastal wetlands and damage from coastal flooding.

“The FEC is aware that as a peninsular state, Florida has an increased need for concern about the effects climate change,” Boroughs said. “We are working to give the Legislature a sound climate change action plan that Florida can rely on and afford.”

This year, the FEC has met and continues to work with state and nationally renowned scientists and climate-change specialists and with members of the general public on the subject of climate change.

A designated time for public testimony will be on the agenda – public participation is encouraged.

About the Advisory Group on Climate Change

The Climate Change Advisory Group, one of four subgroups the FEC created at its inaugural Feb. 9 meeting, exists to explore issues relating to greenhouse gas emissions in Florida, and to develop a comprehensive state climate action plan for greenhouse gas reduction through a public involvement process including transportation and land use; power generation; residential, commercial and industrial activities; waste management; agriculture and forestry; emissions-reporting systems; and public education.

About the Florida Energy Commission

The Florida Energy Commission is a nine-member panel jointly appointed by the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives. It is charged with recommending to the Florida Legislature the best ways to secure Florida's energy future using the guiding principles of reliability, efficiency, affordability and diversity.

The Commission's immediate focus is on renewable energy sources, climate change, and conservation. But these aspects only comprise a few steps of its ultimate plan, which will include generation and transmission to address Florida's long-term energy needs and goals.

By Dec. 31, the FEC will develop a report that will document its progress, and make the first of an ongoing series of recommendations designed to help guide the Florida Legislature in choosing the best practices and options for Florida's energy future.

Visit the Florida Energy Commission's Web site at www.floridaenergycommission.gov.

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